



Sustainable tourism and sustainable development goals (SDGs): a state-of-the-art review of past, present, and future trends

Muhammad Ashraf Fauzi¹

Received: 17 June 2022 / Accepted: 16 October 2023

© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature B.V. 2023

Abstract

This study aims to review the role of sustainable tourism with the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The introduction of SDGs in 2015 has made sustainable tourism much more manageable within a structured and systematic set of goals. A bibliometric approach was applied based on 479 journal publications from the Web of Science database. The study explores the knowledge structure based on past influential publications (document citation analysis), current knowledge structure (co-citation analysis), and future trends (co-occurrence of keywords analysis) on SDGs implementation in the tourism and hospitality industry. Findings suggested that there are several significant clusters based on the three analyses. Theoretical and managerial implications were discussed.

Keywords Sustainable development goals · Sustainable tourism · Tourism and hospitality · Bibliometric analysis

1 Introduction

Tourism is regarded as one of the key contributors to national socioeconomic development and helps reduce poverty in the local community (Scheyvens & Hughes, 2019; Siakwah et al., 2020). The tourism industry is an interrelated and multi-disciplinary field with diverse supply chain connections. Due to its significance and potential impact on the environment, scholars have specified a subfield of high interest known as sustainable tourism (Butler, 1999). The sustainable tourism concept is not limited to the environmental aspect per se. It is an inclusive notion that embraces social, economic, cultural, ethical, and political domains (Moyle et al., 2021). It can be adapted based on different contexts and circumstances, changing over time. In 2015, further reiterating the importance of sustainable tourism, the United Nations 2030 has developed the sustainable development goals (SDGs) with the aim "to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all" by 2030. Since the inauguration, research on sustainable

✉ Muhammad Ashraf Fauzi
ashrafauzi@ump.edu.my

¹ Faculty of Industrial Management, Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Gambang, Malaysia